

THE JUNCTION

WEEKEND



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MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!!! BAGUIO CITY, AND LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO!!!

Pahayagang palaban!!!

BCDA to Check on Of Own Wells On City's Water Supply

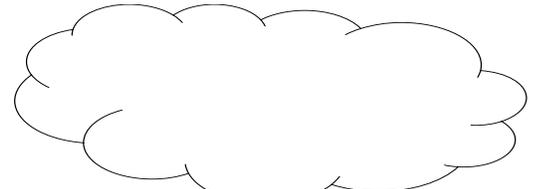


BAGUIO CITY – The John Hay Management Council intends to investigate the reported negative effect of its own water wells on the city's water supply.

JHMC vice president and chief executive officer Atty. Lysa Calde, in a reply to the city council's invitation for Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) chairman Narciso Abaya to attend an inquiry on the issue, asked that they first be furnished with an official copy of the report on the alleged violation of the city's condition for the Camp John Hay developer to provide its own water supply.

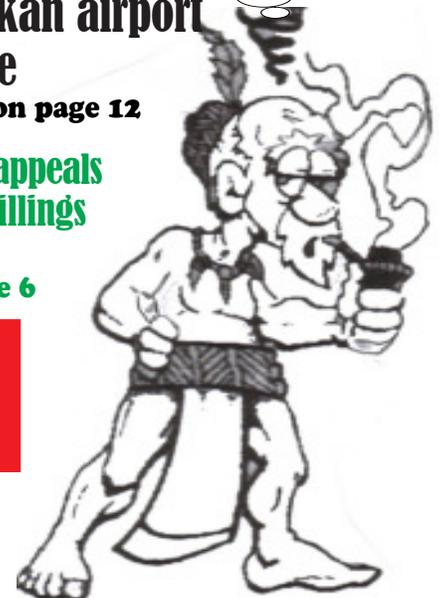
She said this will serve as basis for conducting their own investigation of the issue, after which a

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Council seeks facts to loakan airport closure

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Mayor-elect appeals to stop the killings in Bangued

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Ilocos leaders fear for their lives

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Abra public schools far better than average national situation

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Cordillera needs more teachers

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Two bet burrows fall anew as City Intensifies Drive vs. Gambling

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Animal health group declares RP to be FMD-free

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DOH assures little possibility of hospital holiday in the Cordilleras

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Still no justice for kalinga activist slay

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DIRETSAHAN

Elmo Nevada, Magbayad ka naman!

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



ISN'T THIS UNLAWFUL? But things happen still in public schools here as a parent shows receipts from the Baguio Federation of PTCA's amounting to P520.00 and P130.00 from Pines City National High School when he enrolled his second year high school son. The Pines City National High School, a public high school with a dozen more annexes in various barangays here, has at least 10,000 students must be teeming with collections this school opening maybe reaching P1.3 million. The PTCA must also be bulgeoning with money for questionable PTA, Miscellaneous and Computer Fees with at least P5.2 million for Pines City National High School alone. — Artemio A. Dumlaog

Baguio police cannot be bought?

BAGUIOCITY — It maybe for the Ripley's "Believe or Not". But, Baguio cops cannot be bought!

If they could be bought, a leader of the "budol-budol" syndicate could have freed himself after he was caught last Thursday and offered to buy his freedom for P50,000.

Forty-five year old Carlos Pingol from Bustos, Bulacan, allegedly a leader of swindling syndicate victimizing unsuspecting Baguio residents, offered the amount but was outrightly refused by one of Baguio's finest.

Pingol was caught by alerted residents and policemen when one of his victims, Adelina Gopeng, accidentally saw him along Carantes St. on Thursday.

Precinct 7 commander Chief Insp. Leon Talleo narrated that Gopeng was victimized on May 15 when Pingol and his cohorts conned her.

Talleo said Pingol introduced himself to

Gopeng along Session Road here as a physician from Toronto, Canada and was offering free medicines.

He was so convincing that Gopeng joined them inside a galvanized owner type jeep along with two other ladies. Moments later, Gopeng said she felt she was under their spell. Everything Pingol and his cohorts told her, she did.

The victim brought the syndicate to her house to get her cash, jewelry and bank book. She then proceeded to the bank with them to withdraw P125,000 from her account.

After two weeks, Gopeng saw Pingol. She alerted residents and policemen and the "budol-budol" gang leader was nabbed.

Chief Insp. Talleo said Pingol even tried to bribe them in exchange for his release. He offered P50,000 but the policemen rejected. The two other women with her that time had

also come to the police precinct and named Pingol as the same who victimized them this year. (NORDIS)

Two Bet Burrows Fall Anew as City Intensifies Drive vs. Gambling

BAGUIOCITY — Murphy's Law corollary: "If you perceive there are several possible ways in which something can go wrong, and try out ways to circumvent these, then the best perceived way will probably end in your demise."

Dodging Administrative Order (AO) 198-2007 on immediate stoppage of illegally operating 'parlor games' along Otek Street by securing a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO), June 1, the Lucky Amusement and Variety Show (LAVS) wasn't so lucky as the Regional Trial Court (RTC) blew the whistle in favor of the city government.

In an order dated June 4, RTC Branch 60 judge Edilberto Claravall allowed LAVS "to secure within 24-hours the necessary clearances and pre-requisites for the issuance

Still No Justice For Kalinga Activist Slay

BAGUIO CITY — Justice remains elusive in the brutal killing of Kalinga tribal leader Markus

Bangit in Isabela province believed to be pulled off by a military-sponsored death squad a year ago.

The wound that his assassination has inflicted on us continues to fester, said Wyndel Bolinget, secretary general of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance where Bangit also served as vice-chairperson until his merciless killing on June 8, 2006.

Bangit, 48, was enroute to Baguio City from his home province in Kalinga together with his son when assassins shot him while boarding a bus in Ilagan, Isabela. A school teacher who narrowed their target view on Bangit was also killed by the assas-

sins armed with 45 caliber pistols.

"The anger and the anguish in the hearts of his family have not healed," Bolinget, a tribal Kankanaey further said. "This is because the perpetrators of the crime have not yet been brought to justice; indeed, their bosses remain in power and continue to order the killing of activists."

Bangit's family is yet to be appraised by the CIDG and other law enforcement agencies including the PNP on their probe on the Kalinga activist's slay. Up to now, no suspect had been named.

of a special permit."

City treasurer Thelma Manaois confirmed permits were up for signing by acting Mayor Reinaldo Bautista, Jr. as of press deadline "to conform to the RTC order allowing only the 'shooting gallery', 'running lights', 'ring games', and 'tangga-one' parlor games to be operated."

But clandestine Bingo operation in the

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JUETENG

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Abra public schools far better than average national situation

BANGUED, Abra – The government efforts to improve public schools are expected to bear fruit with academic performance of students due to improved facilities and competencies of teachers.

Dr. Rosita C. Brillantes, Abra School Division Superintendent assured the public when interviewed to give an update on the situation of the opening of classes in the public elementary and secondary schools in the province.

The usual classroom, textbook and teacher shortages that accompany every school opening in the country is proven as a thing of the past already here in Abra.

This is in synch with the report of Education Secretary Jesli Lapus that there was a great improvement in classrooms and other school facilities in the country as the government underscores the importance of providing Filipino students with quality but affordable education as a way of alleviating poverty.

Brillantes had fielded all the education supervisors throughout the province to monitor the implementation of the OPLAN Balik Eskwela Program of the DepEd during the first week of classes. Though the supervisors have not come back to the division office yet to report on the result of their monitoring, Brillantes is optimistic that the 1:22 teacher to pupil ratio analysis of last year is expected to be maintained because many classrooms have been constructed and rehabilitated last year. This ratio is far above the average national ratio of 1:45 teacher to pupil.

The division office, however, will only be able to come up with their final analysis of the teacher to pupil ratio in August when the enrolment list shall have been established as permanent. This is because, many are still enrolling at this point and they simply can not reject the late enrollees.

So far, only the Abra High School re-

mains confronted with the usual classroom shortage problem. But this is inevitable because it is in the provincial center and it is always flooded with too many student-enrollees.

As for the OPLAN Palistahan for the Grade 1 pupils last summer, this is also found effective especially because they conducted the entrance examination with the reading readiness test.

The reading readiness test is necessary and effective as it enabled the teachers to segregate the pupils and determine what curriculum to offer to the enrollees. The examination results determine who needs to undergo the 8-week pre-school curriculum especially for those who did not undergo pre-schooling.

Three supervisors from the DepEd-CAR regional office are also in the province monitoring the opening of classes. / Maritess Beñas (PIA-Abra)

Cordillera needs more teachers

BAGUIO CITY — In the wake of the opening of elementary and high school classes Monday, June 4, an education official disclosed Wednesday that the Cordillera region lacks public school teachers.

Department of Education (DepEd) OIC Regional Director Benito Tumamao, in a weekly media forum, noted the need for a total of 84 teachers in the region.

According to Tumamao, Baguio City

and Benguet lack a total of 28 teachers. Ifugao also lacks 22 teachers, Kalinga needs 13 more while Mountain Province lacks 11. Abra and Apayao need three and seven more public school teachers, respectively.

“More out-of-school youth are encouraged to go back to school that we should hire more teachers,” Tumamao appealed to the national government. He said there are teachers who would be

forced to handle two different classes simultaneously if the government does not address the problem.

Tumamao said DepEd has asked the city government to support the salaries of at least 14 new teachers to fill the natural vacancy. He fears the quality of education would suffer when teachers work double-time to cope with the shortage.

Tumamao said

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Budget Officer on BCC Management: “Efficiency Claim Depends on Perspective”

BAGUIO CITY – “You know people are ‘stressed out’ when they appear to hear mimes.”

Reacting to averments that Baguio Convention Center (BCC) moolah was raised “through efficiency,” city budget officer Leticia Clemente last week shrugged off apparent hip-shooting saying, “efficiency or incompetence depends on perspective of people making the claim.”

She mused why tourism officer Benedicto Alhambra in a news report claims insinuations were made against the latter for allegedly refusing to give up BCC for transactions beneficial to him, “when no such remarks were ever made.”

Clemente explained, “While I and some councilors say the BCC is mismanaged, the flaw is attributable not to Alhambra alone.”

“Simply, if the BCC is mismanaged, it was bungled by the city government as [owner] and not merely by its purported [agent]... which makes us wonder why Alhambra now claims responsibility.”

Acting mayor Rinaldo Bautista, Jr. was even less impressed with Alhambra’s claims saying, “The gut issue is about what we are going to do now.”

“Admittedly, we do not know what we are doing as regards managing BCC and there is a need for ex-

perts to come in if only to make BCC more productive, while keeping true to its purpose of being a premiere tourism and convention center.”

He suggested, “We could privatize management services and just sit comfortably waiting for income while we are assured of its use for our purposes.”

The issue was sparked by discussions on the BCC buy involving the Baguio Government, Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), and the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA).

Clemente, May 28, revealed “the city is spending more for the BCC, than it is earning.” To this, alderman Daniel Farinas declared, “The BCC is being mismanaged... measures need to be done to make it an income generating asset the way it was projected when Ordinance No. 95-95 was passed.”

Ordinance 95 provides for the operation and management of the BCC, naming the City Administrator’s Office (CAO) as facility manager.

Meanwhile, Alhambra in the news report said, “all payments are done at the city treasury and not at the tourism division as implied.” He likewise said he is “not claiming BCC for the [City Tourism Division (CTD)]” even challenged city officials “to get the facility from CTD if they

wanted to.”

In a May 31 interview aired over a local cable talk show, Alhambra claimed there is an Administrative Order (AO) from the mayor’s office from the previous administration tasking him to manage BCC. He said unless such order was amended, he had no recourse but to oblige it.

An inquiry at the mayor’s office revealed no such AO was ever logged.

Likewise article 7 of the Civil Code provides, “Laws are repealed only by subsequent ones, and their violation or non-observance shall not be excused by disuse, or custom or practice to the contrary.... [AO’s] shall be valid only when they are not contrary to the laws....”

In 2004, AO 69-04 designated Alhambra “officer-in-charge” of the CAO conferring him the powers of administration over the BCC pursuant to Ordinance 95.

City administrator Peter Fianza recalled that he assumed office, December 2005, the management of the facility was never turned-over by Alhambra who was erstwhile OIC of the CAO.

He said he decided not “to push the issue” as “the acts of CTD was pointing towards adamancy in going with BCC management alone.”

M e a n t i m e

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Sheep amidst a pack of wolves

By REV. LUNAL DINGAYAN

"Listen, I am sending you out just like sheep to a pack of wolves. You must be cautious as snakes and as gentle as doves. Watch out, for there will be those who will arrest you and take you to court, and they will whip you in the synagogues. For my sake you will be brought to trial before rulers and kings, to tell the Good News to them and to the Gentiles." — Matthew 10:16-18

EDITORIAL

Heroes of the Faith

I belong to a church accused of being "a communist front" and considered by the military and the present government as an "enemy" of the state primarily because of its critical stance against all forms of human rights violations. For we do believe that human life is sacred and that human beings are created in God's image. Hence, our church has a continuing program for the upholding and protection of human rights. Ironically, however, in many cases those who uphold and defend human rights become the victim themselves.

Since President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo came into power in 2001, there were already 16 church workers and lay leaders of our church who were brutally killed in cold blood. This is not to mention those who were killed before the Arroyo Regime. Even though the military and government authorities may consider them "enemies" of the state, we regard them as heroes of the faith. And if justice would not be served to them in this world, we do believe that in the fullness of time the Great Judge of all will give them the justice they deserve.

Common to all those who had been brutally killed is the fact that they were men and women who had taken their Christian faith seriously in the dangerous yet challenging arena of politics and economics. They did not only speak of the Gospel of Christ; they also concretely lived out the demands of the Gospel in the service of the people, especially to those who have less in life. They did not only speak of the truth; they also courageously stood and even fight for the truth. They were committed to live the life of Christ who also died for the sake of humanity, and they were willing to die for His sake.

But here lies the problem – the present government seems to consider an "enemy" of the state anyone who is critical or against the evils of the state. Opposition is supposed to be the one that makes democracy alive. By cracking down on every form of dissent, there would come a time when we become an authoritarian state, without even knowing it.

Alarming incidents

The recent incidents involving some of our pastors are quite alarming to say the least. On March 30, former Conference Minister Rev. Carlos "Caloy" de la Cruz of



PRANGKAHAN TAYO

*Anti-Gambling daw si Meyor B?!
Meyor Bautista Magbabawi Daw -
WOW!?!?*

BY KENSHI



Oo, at nagkaroon kamakailan ng raid ang CIDG –CAR sa isang gambling den sa may Kayang ngunit hindi ito nangangahulugan na anti – illegal gambling itong si Meyor B, hindi ba Meyor B? Huwag tayong maging ipokrito Mayor B. Kung talagang anti illegal gambling ka eh di IPATIGIL mo ang JUETENG/HUWETENG, hindi ba Bossing? So IPOKRITO ka at hindi ka anti-gambling, at katulad ka rin ng tatlong nakaraan na mayor (Meyor Domogan, Meyor Vergara at Meyor Yaranon) kung saan laganap ang operasyon ng jueteng nung sila ay nanunungkulan!!! Marahil ay kaya mo lang ipasara ang mga maliit na pasugalan, tama ba Meyor?

oOo

Kamakailan lang ay na imbitahan ako sa isang birthday celebration ng isang negosyanteng medyo kilala rin at may ilan rin malalaking negosyo dito sa Baguio, Manila at sa Hong Kong. At dahil sa kasapi rin naman ang inyong lingkod sa mga pa-medya-medyas kaya ayun panay ang pagtatanong ko at pag kuha ng opinyon ng mga nakasama ko sa aming round table, and as usual ang usap-usapan at kuwentuhan ay nagkasarapan at nauwi sa kuwentuhan maging sa personal, sa ekonomiya at siyempre sa politika.

Ang isang hindi ko makalimutan nang nagkakainintan na nang kuwentuhan at karamihan sa amin ay mayroon na rin konting tama dala ng Johnny Black at iba pang mga mamahalin inumin ay yun usapan tungkol sa kung paano naging Meyor itong si Peter Rey Bautista at lalong lalo na sa usapin nang mga ginastos ng Bautista Family para ma iluklok sa poder itong si Meyor Peter Rey. Aba eh, sari-saring haka-haka at spekulasyon ag aking nasagap ngunit gaya ng sinabi ko ang isang mainit na spekulasyon at sa aking palagay ay isang realistic na scenario ay yun hingil sa pagbabawi ni Meyor Bautista ng kanilang mga ginastos nitong dalawang nakaraan (2004 at 2007) eleksyon. Ayon sa aming host at birthday boy (belated happy birthday nga pala uli Ser ML) ang bali-balita nya ay ang Bautista family ay gumastos raw nang mahigit kumulang na **FIFTEEN MILLION PESOS (P 15,000,000)** nitong nakaraang 2004 elections para mailuklok para bise mayor itong si Peter Rey at itong nakaraang 2007 elections ay gumastos raw ng mahigit kumulang na **TWENTY FIVE MILLION PESOS (P 25,000,000.00)** para ma iluklok para Meyor itong si Peter Rey. Nang marinig ko ang mga nakaka- lulang mga halaga sabi ko sa aking sarili – **WOW- Heavy, Bigat**, pero sisiw, kayang kaya nang mga Bautista ito. Kaya nang aming pinag uusapan at kinekwenata ang mga nakakalulang halaga na aabot sa mahigit kumulang P 40M ang dapat na

TELL IT AS IT IS

It's June.... Let's Get Married

BY JENNY OCAMPO



Are you hoping or probably preparing to get married in the next days? Are you one of those in line to say "I do" this month? Are you hoping that all the requirements and preparations are finally accomplished?

Before you take that road to the married life you might want to ponder on these thoughts...

1. Why are you getting married? because of money? or baka mahuli ka na sa biyahe? or because you have found the love of your life and you simply must be together for the rest of your life?

2. Are you ready to be a husband and father? to be a wife and a mother?

3. Are you financially ready to get married? Yes! there will be expenses..from the time you will get your marriage license to the time you start a family of your own Di naman pwede pa-sponsor ka nalang ng pa-sponsor or relying on whatever other people will give you or lend you.

4. Even if you have found the love of your life..are you ready to be a husband?father? wife? mother? which may mean shedding off old, bad habits

5. Are you financially, physically, psychologically ready to be married?

6. It is a fact that not all in-laws are heaven sent. Some may come from rotten, dysfunctional families that will eventually be manifested in their attitude.

7.Jealousy and misunderstandings are part of relationships. So communication, compromise, honesty, openness, humility, faithfulness should be part of the efforts of working it out.

8. Never neglect your husband or wife despite busy schedules, problems or even times of misunderstandings

9. Annulment, separation, getting a third party should be the last option or as a matter of fact it should not be an option especially getting a third party.

10. Remember the adage "Marriages are made in heaven" (it doesn't mean you should die and go to heaven first before you experience a marriage made in heaven-especially if you are not sure of going to heaven.

Marriages are made in heaven because it was God who created the idea of marriage and a lasting union at that.. (what God has united let no man put to asunder) . So to work out a marriage .. prayer plays an important part.

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO ALL MARRYING COUPLES!

Women's Front: Was it all worth it?

By INNABUYOG-GABRIELA

As the dust from the electoral exercise settles, we cannot help but ask ourselves – was it all worth it?

All the tiring days of producing campaign posters, banners, leaflets and T-shirts? Of house-to-house campaigns in the communities, leafleteering and posterizing by mobile campaign teams? Of organizing motorcades and caravans around the streets of Baguio? Of speaking everyday and every night in community caucuses, miting de avance and proclamation rallies? Of traveling to the far-flung barrios where people still don't understand the party-list elections? Of making friends with local and national candidates and political allies, while breaking ties, albeit temporarily, with electoral adversaries?

Was it really worth it? All the blood, sweat and tears? Did we achieve what we set out to do, that is, win seats for progressive partylists and

Cont. on page 9

DIRETSAHAN

Elmo Nevada, Magbayad ka naman!

BY RUDY "BANTAY SIYASAT" GARCIA



Mahirap talaga kapag wala kang datung mga suki. Dahil sa pagkuha pa lang ng libreng Abogago... este Abogado sa PUBLIC ATTORNEYS OFFICE eh hindi lang basta basta! kelangan mo pang patunayan na kwalipikado ka para sa benipisyo at dito mga suki ay kailangan mong magsumite ung tinatawag nilang CERTIFICATE OF INDEGENCY mula sa Department of Social Welfare Division o DSWD. Oks lang ito dahil kailangan naman, pero ang nakakarindi, ang mga *tse tse buretseng* istayl ng mga unggoy na opisina de Gobyerno.

Maniwala man kayo o hindi mga suki, inabot ng halos dalawang linggo bago nakuha ang kailangang sertipikasyon, yan ay dahil sa maaarteng istayl ng ibang mga ungas na nakaupo sa DSWD, BIR at BARANGAY. Mahirap ka na nga, maghihirap ka pa at lalo ka pang pinahihirapan nitong mga kenkoy at kenkay na nakaupo sa mga nabanggit na opisina ngaun sino ang nagsasabing "JUSTICE IS FOR THE POOR?" Pweh! Nahihibang na siguro sila!

O ano sey nyu mga kinauukulan diyan sa DSWD, BIR at ABC? At ano rin sey nyu, mga detractors ko? Hah! Ngayon ninyo sabihin na marami akong datung sa panginigkil ko sa mga illegal na pasugalan ni pambili nga ng pang meryenda sa libreng Abogago... este Abogado ko eh wala, buti nga sa inyo eh, P1,500.00 ang ibinibigay ng bawat pasugalan, oh di ba? aminiin!.... Bato bato sa langit ang tamaan ay..... Buwssshhiiiiit!!!

ooOoo

Heto ang isang bulong ng isa nating unggoy sa Baguio City Hall na ayon ay mayroon na raw nangyayaring demoralisasyon sa mga empleyado't empleyadang mga "CO-TERMINUS" ni dating Meyor "Lolo" Y! Op kors, sino naman ang hindi kakabahan eh malapit na ang Hunyo 30, 2007 kunsaan gudbay na ang mga kandidatong natalo at magsisimula ng uminit naman ang mga upuan ng mga nanalo, paano kung isa sila sa ayaw ni St. Peter. Este Ser Peter at ipasipa sila palabas ng City Hall kaya no wonder, ang iba ay pandying bandying na lang sa kanilang mga trabaho!

Kung sa bagay, "PREROGATIVE" ito ng ating bagong Administrador local kung sino ang mananatili at sinong sisipain! at syempre pa, kailangang isipin ng mga empleyado't empleyadang "CO-TERMINUS" na hanggang sa Hunyo 20, 2007 na lang sila. Kung "IRERETAIN" sila "WELL EN GUD", pero kung hindi, huwag naman sana silang kapalmuks!

At kay boss Peter, Bautista sana ay walang palakasan sa pagpili at pagtanggap ninyo ng mga empleyado't empleyadang CO-TERMINUS! Huwag naman sanang porket kamag-anak o kaibigan o tumulong sa inyo noong eleksyon ay bibigyan nyu na ng puwesto at posisyon. Alalahanin na nakabantay kami sa City Hall. DIRETSAHAN Lang po to Meyor!

ooOoo

Sa pagsalakay ng mga operatiba ng Criminal Investigation Intelligence Detection Group o CIDG sa utos mismo ng Meyors Ofis at Councilor Galo Weygan ng AVCTF sa isang illegal na pasugalan sa may Hilltop Kayang ay pagpapatunay na hindi kinukunsinte ng ating otoridad lalo na si Meyor Peter Rey Bautista ang ganitong mga iligal na aktibidades.

Ayon sa butihing sekretari op d Meyor na si Greg ay marami pa raw kasunod nito. Nauna na rito ay ang pagpapasara nila ng bingyo sa magsaysay at sa Otek oks talaga kayo mga Bosing, saludo ako sa inyo, sana ay hindi lang ito NINGAS KUGON o papogi lamang, at kailan naman ninyo babanatan itong MOTHER OF ALL GAMBLING na Hweteng.

Kaya nyu ba ito apo Meyor, o baka naman patuloy kayong magbubulag bulagan at magbbingi bingihan o baka naman itong mga SMALL TIME na pasugalan lang ang kaya ninyo ni Apo Weygan? Lalo akong sasaludo sa inyo kung mapapatigil ninyo ang huweteng dito sa ating lungsod kung hindi, sori mga Apo at mapipilitan akong bawiin ang aking saludo sa inyo, period!

...Hinggil naman dito sa mini karnival sa may Otek na ipinasara ng Meyors Opis, mukha yatang me katigasan din ng ulo itong mga lintek na operaytors. Base kasi sa report ng Meyor Opis, 2 Linggo na nag-oopereyt itong naturan na walang BUSINESS PERMIT kaya naman ipinasara.

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Mayor-elect appeals to stop the killings in Bangued

BANGUED, Abra – Mayor-elect Dominic B. Valera of this capital town appealed to the 31 barangay captains here to stop the killings now that elections are over.

He made the appeal to the punong barangays in an effort to put back Bangued to a peaceful condition again so that it could again rise from the tension brought about by the recent elections.

“We need to work hard to bring back the business climate we need in order to alleviate poverty. And we can achieve this mission only if we as a municipality, move as one. Let this be our contribution to our national leadership’s effort of building of a strong economy.” Valera said.

Valera is a businessman and because of this his priority of governance when sworn into office is to establish an improved investment climate that would include those that the national government are giving special attention to like hiking revenues collection, management of expenditures effectively, investing in social services and building a political climate that would support growth and development in Bangued.

These priorities were conceptualized to address the worsening problems of the public market vendors and other small business owners who have gone bankrupt due to alleged high taxes and various fees levied by the local government unit of Bangued in an effort to elevate the classification of this first class municipality to cityhood.

Physical infrastructures will be the second top priority of this new leader as he vowed to improve the roads and bridges in the interior barangays to help the farmers bring their produce to the markets as well as to facilitate the mobility of all the barangay folks especially the school children.

Valera is the incumbent Barangay Captain of the most-thickly populated and major barangay of this capital town, Zone 5.

Running under KAMPI, he won the mayoralty post over incumbent Vice Governor Jaime A. Lo and then number 1 Sangguniang bayan member Loreto Seares, Jr. Two of his children also won in the May 14, 2007 election, only son Domino Joseph as Sangguniang Bayan member of Bangued, and Maria Jocelyn Bernos, won the Number 1 seat in the Sangguniang Panlalawigan for District 2. Bernos is the wife of the slain Mayor Ysrael Mark Bernos of La Paz. /Maritess Beñas (PIA-Abra)

Rehab works on Halsema Phase II and III ongoing

BAGUIO CITY - The implementation of the rehabilitation works of Phases II and III of the La Trinidad-Bontoc-Banaue Road otherwise known as the Halsema Highway road project have taken off simultaneously to spur the super region’s economic growth.

The Halsema Highway Phase II or Mt. Data-Bontoc Section with a total length of 50.5 kilometers has an estimated project cost of P1 billion while the Bontoc – Banaue section or Phase III covering an approximate length of 39 kilometers has an appropriation of P780 million.

As of May 25, 2007, a report released by the Department of Public Works and Highways showed that P340 million was initially released for civil works for

the Mt. Data-Bontoc section. There are 20 sections issued Notice to Proceed (NTP) with 16 already ongoing and four sections still on the mobilization stage. Based on the initial release, DPWH reported a 23.82% accomplishment.

For the Bontoc-Banaue Section, accomplishment is 17.13% based on the initial release of P189 million for civil works. 11 sections were issued NTPs with 7 sections already ongoing while 4 are still on the mobilization stage. Also released was P35 million for detailed engineering to be undertaken by the DPWH regional office.

In both projects, scope of work are described as widening, concreting, drainage, slope protection and road side structures.

It has been noted

that in the status of work, some have been suspended due to shortage of portland cement and afternoon rains, aside from the usual road right of way problems.

Phase I which starts from La Trinidad to Mt. Data Section was substantially completed last year by the DAEWOO Construction.

As to the other infrastructure projects committed by the President during her State of the Nation address last year, being implemented by the DPWH, the Bontoc-Tabuk-Tuguegarao Road, which is composed of two sections, is also proceeding. Its improvement is envisioned to strengthen east-west link as it will enhance economic linkages between Regions II and

Cont. on page 7

Two Bet Burrows Fall Anew.....from page 2

area was ordered closed. City legal officer Melchor Carlos Rabanes recalled, “During the 2pm hearing on the TRO, Claravall asked LAVS if they were indeed operating bingo, which they denied in open court.”

“Much to their surprise, Claravall ordered a 30-minute inspection of the area. After the gavel was struck for recess, administrators of the burrow took on their cellphones apparently to instruct their mates in the area to hide gambling paraphernalia.”

“It’s a good thing we likewise have the same technology to instruct our own agents to rush to the area where we caught LAVS men trying to tuck away their bingo equipment,” Rabanes added.

LAVS likewise dismantled amusement rides in the area following AO 198-2007, pointing apparent violations to Presidential Decree No. 1096 (National Building Code), requiring building permit for the structures.

Meantime, the Anti-Vice Coordinating Task Force (AVCTF) under the Office of the Mayor, together with elements of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), June 6, raided a gambling den at Kayang-Hilltop in the City Market.

An AVCTF report dated June 7 revealed that at about 6:30pm, the AVCTF and CIDG operatives apprehended 8-people apparently operating “color games” in the area.

Betting money amounting to P1,110.00 and gambling paraphernalia were likewise seized and brought to the CIDG office at DPS Compound for purposes of evidence.

Apprehended were Edgar Morillo of Camp 6, Kennon Road (*maintainer*); Danny Ngiyaw of Tadian, Mt. Province (*collector*); Marlon Dalit of 727 Villa Antonio, Pasig City (*bettor*); Domingo Landicho from Bangaya, Batangas City (*bettor*); Antonio Adawoy of Marville Homes, Irian (*bettor*); George Eugenio of Poblacion West, Alcala, Pangasinan (*bettor*); Wilner Caiso of 28-West Buyagan, La Trinidad (*bettor*); and Rey Dingo of 30-Cating Bldg., Hilltop.

Charges were brought up against the malefactors for violation of Presidential Decree No. 1096, as amended by Republic Act 9278 – the national anti-illegal-gambling laws. The raid was apparently sparked by anonymous phone calls.

Bautista meanwhile welcomed developments saying, “This only goes to show how serious our drive is to curb illegal gambling.”

He vowed to continue anti-illegal gambling efforts encouraging Baguio locals to report the same to the mayor’s office.

Bautista reiterated stern warning against organizers of gambling activities in the city, “This is war... Anyone may have a scheme for getting rich through illicit activities but I assure them, it will not work, not under our administration.”

Earlier, elements of the Public Order and Safety Division (POSD) were ordered to stop a gambling den at Tabora Park, Magsaysay Avenue (Rabbit Sinkhole) from operating. **ISL

Baguio BIR barangay tax collection hits P1.038-M

BAGUIO CITY, (PNA) - The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) collected P1.038 million taxes during the first four months of 2007 in the “Summer Capital of the Philippines.”

Baguio’s BIR 2006 collection for the same period was only P865,743. In 2005, the taxes collected amounted to P2.24 million while in 2006, BIR collection totalled to P2.56 million.

Norberto Vitug, BIR Cordillera regional

director, said the increased collection was boosted by the barangay collection tax scheme.

The Department of Finance (DOF) launched the barangay tax collection scheme here and other parts of the region before the May 14 midterm elections.

The BIR utilized 44 barangay halls in Baguio where local businessmen filed their income tax returns.

The barangays were also used to

implement tax information drive, he said.

Vitug said the Cordillera region in northern Luzon steadily increased its tax collection since 2005.

He said this was done when the government responded by improving the economic status of the mountainous area.

He cited the various infrastructures that helped improved agriculture industries,

Cont. on page 8

Republic of the Philippines REGIONAL TRIAL COURT FIRST JUDICIAL REGION BRANCH 59 Baguio city

THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF BAGUIO CITY, Respondent, SPL. PROC. CASE NO. 1741-R

(ADDITIONAL FAMILY COURT OF BAGUIO)

IN RE PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF THE MINOR ARNEL BAO IDANG WAYAN FROM ARNEL BAO-IDANG WAYAN TO DANTLY JORDAN BAO-IDANG WAYAN,

SPOUSES ON OFRE A. WAYAN and ARNOLITAB. WAYAN, Petitioners, -Versus-

ORDER A verified petition filed by the petitioners through counsel alleged among others: 1. Petitioners are both of legal age, Filipinos, and with residence and postal address at No. 95 Happy Homes, Old Lucban, Baguio City, Philippines 2. Petitioners are the parents of the minor ARNEL BAO-IDANG WAYAN, who was born in Baguio city on January 16, 1991 as evidenced by his Certificate of Live Birth

issued by the Local Civil Registrar of Baguio City, copy of which is attached and made integral part hereof as ANNEX "a"; 3. When the said child ARNEL BAO-IDANG WAYAN was baptized on March 10, 1991, he was given the name DANTY JORDAN BAO-IDANG WAYAN. Photocopy of his Baptismal Certificate is attached and made an integral part hereof as Annex "B" 4. That since his baptism as DANTLY JORDAN BAO-IDANG WAYAN, the said child of petitioners has been known and called by the first name DANTLY JORDAN and he has used the name DANTLY JORDAN BAO-IDANG WAYAN, in all

his schooling and other records; 5. That among friends, relatives and acquaintances, he is known as DANTLY JORDAN BAO-IDANG WAYAN, 6. That the names "ARNEL BAO-IDANG WAYAN" and "DANTLY JORDAN BAO-IDANG WAYAN" refer to one and the same person; 7. That to avoid confusion as to the identity of petitioners' child and to set his records straight, it is necessary that his first name "ARNEL" appearing in his record of birth be changed to "DANTLY JORDAN" On the basis of the foregoing, the petitioner prays of this Honorable Court that

after due notice, proper publication and hearing, a judgment be rendered ordering the correction of the minors name from ARNEL to DANTLY JORDAN. Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the same be heard before the Regional trial court, Branch 59, baguio City on October 30, 2007 at 10:30 o'clock in the morning at which place, and time, the petitioners shall prove their case. Any person interested may appear and show cause, if any there be why the petition should not be granted. Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners in the

a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Baguio and in Benguet province once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks. Likewise, let this Order, together with a copy of the petition and its annexes; be furnished to the Honorable Solicitor General, Makati City, Metro Manila, the City Procecutor of Baguio, and the local Civil Registrar of Baguio City. SO ORDERED. DONE IN CHAMBERS, this 5th day of June, 2007, at Baguio City Philippines. (SGD) ILLUMINADA P. CABATO Judge June 9, 16 & 24, 2007

Republic of the Philippines REGIONAL TRIAL COURT FIRST JUDICIAL REGION OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL SHERIFF La Trinidad, Benguet

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135 as amended filed by Rachel Turtem against Sps. Alice and Miller Menzi, both of legal age, and John M Salcha, single, of legal age, all Filipino Citizens, and residents of BC-05, Alapang, La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of May 08.2007, the Mortgagors still owe and is indebted to the Mortgagee the amount of TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE THOUSAND AND FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY (Php279,520,00) PESOS, PHILIPPINE CURRENCY, inclusively of surcharges, interest until May 08, 2007, excluding attorney's fees and other expenses incidental to the foreclosure and sale, the undersigned or her duly authorized

Deputy will SELL at public auction on JULY 02, 2007 at 9:30 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, in front of the main entrance of the BULWAGAN NG KATARUNGAN BUILDING, La Trinidad, Benguet, to the highest bidder, for CASH and in Manager's Check and in Philippine Currency, the following property with all this improvements, to wit: T R A N S F E R CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-59939 (REGISTRY OF DEEDS FOR PROVINCE OF BENGUET) "A parcel of land (Lot "F" of the subdivision plan Psd-18453, being a portion of the land described on the original plan Fp-7903, G.L.R.O., Record No.), situated in the Barrio of Alapang, Dist. Of La Trinidad,

Mt. Prov., (Sub-Prop. Of Beng.), Bounded on the NE., and SE, by Lot "E" of the subd. Plan on the S, by Public Land; and on the NW, by property of Rivera Olmo. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan, being N. 75 deg. 33'E, 403.32m. from B.L.L.M. 1 Bo. of Alapang, Mpl. Dist. Of La Trinidad, thence S. 13 deg. 34'W, 34.76m. to point 2, xxx to the point of beginning; containing an area of FIVE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY NINE SQUARE METERS (5,729) more or less with ARP No. 99-005-02060 Registered under the name of Alice S. Menzi married to Miller Menzi; John M. Salcha in Pro In division equal shares" All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date. LA TRINIDAD, Benguet Province,

Philippines, this 4th day of June, 2007. FOR THE PROVINCIAL SHERIFF EX-OFFICIO OF BENGUET

BY: (SGD) FRANKLIN C. ALIMBUYAO Sheriff IV June 9, 16 & 24, 2007

Rehab works on Halsema ... from page 6

CAR and a north-south mountain link between Mt. Province, Kalinga and Apayao. For the Bontoc-Tinglayan Boundary Section I, the DPWH Regional Office and the District Engineering offices already received the initial release of P112 million for civil works out of the total project cost of P382 million. Six sections were issued NTPs with one ongoing while five sections are suspended due to shortage of Portland cement. Another P19 million was released for the detailed engineering for this section undertaken by a consultant. This was bid out at the Central Office. As for the Tinglayan Bdry.-Lubuagan-Tabuk Section 2 with an appropriation of P988 million, DPWH reported a 31.19% accomplishment based on the initial release of P229 million for civil works. Except for one project undergoing the preparation of Program of Work(POW), the four others issued NTP are now ongoing. Detailed engineering for this section was also bid out at the Central Office in the amount of P17 million. This road is also seen to be a factor to poverty alleviation as it will bring about tremendous economic and social activities in the area as well as lower the cost of transport of goods and services. North Luzon Super Region development champion and Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap had earlier inspected these projects to ensure their smooth implementation. The government has made infrastructure one of its priority investment areas as it believes that investments made on infrastructure will pave the way for a sure path to prosperity.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S PUBLIC AUCTION SALE

EDITORIAL from page 4

the Lowland Cavite – South Manila Conference and his companion Emiliano Cajono were abducted in Dasmariñas, Cavite. Pastor Caloy was reportedly tortured. They were released the following day. On April 21, Pastor Francisco “Jun” Bonuan was also arrested and was detained in Camp Dangwa for his alleged participation in the killing of Conrado Balweg, a former rebel priest who returned to the fold of the law. Originally, there were fourteen John and Jane Does in the case, and the military and government authorities eventually named outspoken government critics in the area of North Luzon as the ones responsible, even when the New People’s Army Command in Abra already owned up to the killing. Most of those alleged “killers” arrested earlier, like Pastor Jun, were released by the Court for lack of evidence.

Then, on May 27, Pastor Berlin Guerrero was also abducted at gunpoint by armed men who were later on identified as police intelligence operatives, on board two L300 vans with covered plate numbers. Pastor Berlin, together with his wife, was just through with their worship service in his church assignment in Biñan when he was forcibly picked up.

While there was a frantic search for his whereabouts, Pastor Berlin called up his wife saying that he was at the Police Headquarters in Camp Gen. Pantaleon Garcia in Imus, Cavite. Pastor Berlin claimed that he was tortured by his abductors, although the Cavite police director, Senior Superintendent Fidel Posadas insisted that Pastor Berlin was simply arrested on the basis of two warrants of arrest for inciting to sedition and murder.

I know Pastor Berlin personally. He was one of our young people at Ang Sambahan sa Nayon, Union Theological Seminary, Palapala, Dasmariñas, Cavite, when I was assigned there as a young pastor many years ago. He was a very soft-spoken person, a brilliant student, and deeply involved in the cause for justice and peace. He comes from a family of pastors: he has three brothers who are all pastors. His two uncles are pastors and his own father, later on, also entered the seminary and became a pastor.

I could not believe that Pastor Berlin could do the things that he was accused of. But I know that he is a person with deep compassion for the poor and the oppressed. And in a country like ours, anyone who truly cares for the poor is a suspect; anyone who asks serious questions why people are poor is considered an “enemy” of the state. I know that Pastor Berlin, being a Christian and a

pastor at that, has been showing compassion for the poor and oppressed, not so much because of ideology but because of his faith in the God who is loving and compassionate to the last, the least, and the lost. Certainly, those who abducted and tortured Pastor Berlin, Pastor Caloy, and Pastor Jun, may also claim that they believe in God. But I’m not so sure what kind God they believe in. But I surely know that the God of the Bible is a God of love and compassion.

Cost of discipleship

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ gives warning to all those who are truly his disciples. He says, “Listen, I am sending you out just like sheep to a pack of wolves. You must be cautious as snakes and as gentle as doves. Watch out, for there will be those who will arrest you and take you to court, and they will whip you in the synagogues. For my sake you will be brought to trial before rulers and kings, to tell the Good News to them and to the Gentiles.” (Mt.10:16-18)

Truly, we are like sheep amidst a pack of wolves. But nevertheless, we are comforted by the words of the Lord, saying: “When they bring you to trial, do not worry about what you are going to say or how you will say it; when the time comes, you will be given what you will say. For the words you will speak will not be yours; they will come from the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.” (Mt.10:19-20)

It is our fervent prayer that the Lord’s words of comfort and assurance will be fulfilled, indeed, in the lives of Pastor Caloy, Pastor Jun, and Pastor Berlin, and to all those who suffer persecution in these evil times, because of their faith in Christ. Amen. (NORDIS)

Prangkahan Tayo... from page 4

bawiin ni Meyor Peter Rey , puwera interes pa yuon? Sabi nang isang katabi ko sa lamesa, isang talunin din na politiko na tumakbo para Vice Mayor nitong nakarang eleksyon- PATAY tayong lahat at malaki laki ang dapat na bawiin (kaya dapay bantayan bawat galaw ni Bautista) at sa paanong paraan, aba eh di sa alam niyo na sa mga ibat ibang creative na pamamaraan !!! Sabi naman ng isa ko rin kasamahan sa round table ay hindi ganoon ang mga Bautista at mga Philanthropist (pilantropo- He!he!he!he!hi!hi!hi!hi!, montik na akong mabilaukan sa katatawa ng marinig ko to eh) ang mga Bautista at gusto lang daw nilang masasabi nila na hawak nila ang City Hall at sila ang mga Bossing sa politika ng Baguio. Kaya ayun, uminit nang husto ang usapan at diskusyon hingil sa usaping PAGBABAWI NI MEYOR PETER REY. Kayo ang matanong ko mga dear readers, sa palagay ninyo kanino sa dalawang opinyon ang tama !?!?! Una ay sag babawi daw nang mahigit kumulang 40 million si Meyor Peter Rey (puwera interes pa yan) o mga pilantropo ang mga Bautista at donasyon na lang sa Baguio ang mga nasabing malalaking ginastos, palagay ninyo mga dear readers? Kung ako ang tatanungin. Well, well, well, kahit Grade 1 lang ang inabot nang sasagot nitong ganitong tanong , hindi mahirap

Baguio BIR ... from page 6

business and tourism. Vitug said there are taxpayers who feel some inconvenience in going to BIR offices so they have to bring the BIR closer to the grassroots level.” added:”Even the smallest taxpayers want to contribute to the economic goals of our country as outlined by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.”(PNA)

V i t u g

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD
Cordillera Administrative Region, Baguio City

ABRHAM T. CIRIACO
Applicant
Case No. 2005-BENG - CAR-633
NOTICE OF HEARING

This is an application for the extension of Validity of a Certificate of Public Convenience to operate a PUJ Service for the Transformation of passengers and freight on the line: BAGUIO CITY TUDING and Vice Versa with the use of the one (1) unit.

Notice is hereby given that this application shall be heard by the Board on July 10, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. at the LTRFB Office, Pacdal, Baguio City which date and time the applicant shall formally submit his/her/their evidences.

At least ten (10) days prior to the above date, the applicant/s shall publish the NOTICE once in one (1) weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

Parties opposed to the granting of the application must file their written opposition supported by documentary evidence on or before the above date, or within five days from receipt of the notice, furnishing a copy of the same to the applicant and may if they so desire appear on said date and time.

This application shall be acted upon the Board on the basis of its records and the documentary evidences submitted by the parties unless the Board deem necessary to receive additional documentary and/or oral evidence.

WITNESS, the Honorable ALFREDO B. GOZON - OIC this 30th day of May 2007.
(SGD) ATTY. BRENDA DULNUAN-POKLAY
Hearing Officer

Still no justice for kalinga from page 2

This even as Bangit's killing was cited as one of the

cases in the 2006 Amnesty International Report on Killings and Human Rights Situation in the country.

Bolinget who will lead an ecumenical service in commemoration of the killing at the Our Lady of Lourdes Church here together with Bangit's family, colleagues and groups calling for an end to the extra-judicial executions in the country on how snail-paced the probe is even as investigations conducted by United Nations Special Rapporteurs Rodolfo Stavenhagen and Philip Alston several months ago resulted in strongly worded condemnations of the extrajudicial killing of activists by military and police elements.

Bolinget added that despite UN officials' interventions and continuing interest and concern by some European civil libertarians in the killings, the killings goes on.

"More than 50 people have been added to the list of its victims since the time of the Alston inquiry – the total to over 850," he said.

"Economic Pressure Might Do The Job?"

And many more might become victims, claime as alleged hitmen have been recently stalking Bangit's colleagues in Kalinga — Andres Wailan and Theodore Ngayaan.

Wailan and Ngayaan are successors of Bangit in the militant indigenous peoples group Cordillera Peoples Alliance.

Perhaps only economic pressure can force an end to political killings, Bolinget said. "We are awaiting the Canadian Parliament's action on a petition filed on May 30 for Canada to intervene for an end to the killings, using as leverage the \$25 million in aid and the \$1.5 billion in bilateral trade that it has committed to the Philippines." The petition was signed by more than 5,000 Canadian citizens and endorsed by 13 Ministers of Parliament.

Bolinget said the responses of Canadian officials is the result of a campaign launched on March this year by church workers and Filipino political refugees in Canada.

Among the refugees are Bangit's former colleague in the CPA-Kalinga chapter — Dr. Chandu Claver, who was himself a victim of an assassination attempt after Bangit that instead took the life of his wife.

Several other pleas has been filed by Japanese, New Zealand and Australian cause oriented groups with their governments on these.

Lately, Pres. Gloria Arroyo visited these countrie inviting them to invest in the Philippines./ Artemio A. Dumlaog

Animal health group declares RP to be FMD-free

THE WORLD ORGANIZATION for Animal Health has recently reaffirmed the country to be free from the dreaded foot-and-mouth disease during the 75th annual general session of the International Committee held in Paris, France last month.

At the sidelines of the North Food Caravan Harvest, Bureau of Animal Industry Director Davinio Catbagan said that the OIE again has declared Visayas, Mindanao, Masbate and Palawan to be totally free of FMD.

Visayas and Mindanao have been declared as FMD-free for more than a decade now, and Luzon, for more than a year.

According to

Catbagan, the department is now preparing and working on getting the National Capital Region, Batangas, Bulacan, Laguna and Nueva Ecija to be declared as FMD-free.

"If no FMD-related incidents happen in the next six months, we are ready to lodge our application to the OIE by January next year and then wait for the results by May 2008 when the committee reconvenes," said Catbagan.

He added that the BAI would need P50 million to fund its programs to ensure that the country would stay free of FMD.

One of its programs is the strengthening quarantine controls. Catbagan added that they are

strengthening their information campaign drive, as well as their ties with local government units.

"If we can pass the May 2008 deliberations, then the whole country can be declared FMD-free, and that's something we can take advantage of," said Catbagan.

As it is, the country has already reaped the benefits of having some of its areas declared as totally FMD free.

For this year, the Department of Agriculture already expects the country's hog industry to grow 3.5 percent as it expects a rise in trade of Philippine meat products with Singapore, Russia, Japan, Mexico, Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan and other Asian countries.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap earlier said that, aside from frozen meat, the department sees eight processed meat items to start penetrating the global market this year as the Philippines moves closer to being declared totally free of FMD by the OIE.

The processed products are luncheon meat, spam, pork and beans, lechon paksiw, pork adobo, sisig, chili con carne and bistik tagalog.

"Singapore is willing to accept Philippine exports of fresh, frozen meat, subject to certain conditions, which are being worked out," Yap said. "We are looking at Japan, which is the world's top meat importer, as another major market for our meat exports."

Women's Front ... from page 5

progressive candidates in the elections?

We may not have achieved the maximum that we set out to do, but we can say we were victorious in the face of the odds against us. Progressive partylists and candidates faced serious obstacles put up by the ruling GMA administration. We had to deal with black propaganda, extrajudicial killings, abductions and harassment of our members, filing of disqualification cases, rebellion and murder charges against partylist representatives, active military and government campaign for fake, pro-administration partylist

groups, massive disenfranchisement and harassment of our voters, campaigners and partylist pollwatchers, as well as vote-buying, vote-shaving and vote-padding.

Despite the odds against us, we are confident that we will be able to maintain, if not increase, the number of progressive partylist representatives in Congress. As of the latest Quick Count figures (May 29, 2007) of the Task Force Poll Watch 2007, Gabriela Women's Party ranked 4th in the partylist elections, with 4.11% of total partylist votes. This

percentage is based on official Certificates of Canvass (COC) in 87 out of 103 cities and provinces or 84.47%. So far, this translates to two seats for Gabriela in the House of Representatives, but the figures may still change as the last remaining COCs trickle in. From all indications, Gabriela is sure of 1 representative, has a good chance of having 2, but a 3rd seat is uncertain. Thus, our 3rd nominee from the Cordillera, Flora Belinan, is still waiting in the sidelines.

Meanwhile, some local candidates whom we supported made it, like Baguio City councilors Pinky Rondez, Richard Carino, Rocky Balisong and Elaine

Sembrano. Others didn't, especially in the different provinces of the Cordillera. At the senatorial level, the opposition is headed for a convincing victory over President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's Team Unity.

Ultimately, all the hard work has paid off. And as the dust settles after the electoral exercise, we can now go back to our daily struggle of organizing, arousing and mobilizing the people. After all, it is the people's mass movement that serves as an essential complement to the parliamentary struggle being done by our victorious partylist representatives and officials in government.

DOH assures little possibility of hospital holiday in the Cordilleras

BAGUIO CITY, (PNA) - The Department of Health (DOH) here assured Wednesday that the possibility of a hospital holiday in the Cordillera region in northern Luzon is remote, considering the constant dialogue between government health officials and the administrators of private hospitals here.

Cordillera has less than one million population but some of the patients are brought to the area from surrounding provinces.

Dr. Myrna Cabotaje, DOH Cordillera regional director, allayed fears of private hospitals here staging a sympathy strike with their counterparts in the association of private hospitals in the Philippines due to the Hospital Detention Law.

Cabotaje was the principal guest in the regular Kapihan sa Baguio media forum sponsored by government offices here every Wednesday.

The law which has been recently passed will prohibit the hospitals from refusing the release of their patients qualified for discharge if they fail to settle their hospital bills.

According to Cabotaje, the DOH will try to help the private hospitals recover their losses in cases where their indigent patients cannot afford to pay their accumulated bills.

Besides, she said, the various government hospitals are accommodating all poor patients in their free wards in order that they will no longer be forced to foot the bills of medical services and medicines.

The giving of health services to the needy is part of the government health services to the people, she said.

To date, the leading government hospitals which are accepting needy patients by the hundreds everyday include the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center, Dennis Molintas Memorial Hospital, Benguet General Hospital, and the provincial hospitals of Abra, Mountain Province, Kalinga, Apayao and Ifugao.

Cabotaje said that aside from these government hospitals, there are several government health facilities available to the residents like the DOH rural health units, barangay health centers, village pharmacies and others. (PNA)

Diretsahan... from page 4

Nakiusap kaya't nabuksan ang kaso, mukhang inabuso ang konsiderasyon na ibinigay kaya't ipinasara ulit, eh talaga yatang pasaway itong palaro na nasa Otek, Nagpila sila ngayon ng TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER sa korte at nabigyan naman sila ng 72 oras para pansamantalang mawala ang bisa ng klosyur o demolisyon order ng Meyor.

At kundi ba naman pasaway, kakatatanggap lang ng TRO, itinayo na ng mga lekat ang kanilang bingoy at nagpalaro. Kundi ba naman talaga sila pasaway at matigas ang ulo hindi man lang nila nirespeto, ang TRO o baka naman talagang mga tanga sila at bobo?

Gusto ko ngang tawagan ng pansin itong mga lekat na nagpapatakbo ng mini karnawal sa may Otek? Hoy mga damontres, hindi habang panahon ay kaya ninyong paikutin ang batas! Matutuldukan din ang katigasan ng inyong mga ulo! Wala kaming pakialam kung sino man ang binigyan nyu ng pera, pero ung mga alegasyon ninyo na nagpakawala kayo ng malaking halaga, ang masasabi ko lang, panindigan ninyo, magharap harap kayo para sa katotohanan. Iyan ang hamon ko para sa malinis at maayos na lungsod ng Baguio.!

ooOoo

Hindi lang pala balasubas itong mga dating tao in *Mayorality Candidate* Elmo Nevada kundi mga magnanakaw ka. Biruin ninyong hindi ibinigay ang suweldo na dapat ay mapunta sa mga *Poll Watchers* nila noong nakaraang eleksyon, at ayon sa sumbong, hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa naibibigay kahit singkong duling man lang dito sa mga pobrang naghirap nagpagod at

Baguio police braces for traffic/other problems for 80,000 returning students on June 13

BAGUIO CITY, - A Baguio City Police Office (BCPO) spokesman said the police was ready to maintain peace and order on the opening of classes on June 13.

Senior Police Officer 3 Virgilio Hidalgo, BCPO public information officer, said, the city police will be augmented by barangay auxilia-

ries, tanod members and communication groups.

Hidalgo said around 80,000 students would report to classes in the city's numerous colleges and universities.

Hidalgo said the Baguio City government and city folks were spearheading the move to uphold the status of Baguio City as Northern Luzon's educational center.

He said the city experienced heavy traffic and other security problems last June 4 when more than 70,000 el-

nagpuyat!

Atensyon Ginoong Elmo Nevada, pakiasikaso mo naman itong mga kawawa mong watchers. Alam ko na hindi ka balasubas at hindi mo rin kasalanan na hindi nabigyan ng datung ang mga *Watchers* ninyo. Baka naman pwede mong gawan ng paraan, ha, Apo Elmo Nevada? Plis lang!

ooOoo

Hinggil din ito sa Reklamang isinulat natin tungkol sa *overloading* at aroganteng drayber ng Genesis Bus Line. Ayon sa sumbong, ang number ng Bus ay 8,801. alas dos ng hapon umalis mula Baguio papuntang manila noong Mayo 15, 2007 at kung sinuman ang nakatokang drayber sa oras at petsa ng naturang Bus, siya na iyon.

O ano sey ninyo kayo diyan sa Genesi Bus Line? Ano rin kaya ang masasabi ng LTFRB? Aksyunan Nyu naman, GIISHIING!!!

Ilocos leader fear... from page 12

ka, Ur next among other threats. Threats against her started in December last year.

Elvie Sanchez, widow of slain activist Romy Sanchez, noticed suspicious men casing their compound since May. On May 17, after attending an electoral consultation, colleagues of Sanchez noticed an unidentified man in camouflage uniform standing near their compound. The children of Sanchez also noticed an unidentified man pretending to be a collector of the local electric company on May 18. When they looked at what he was writing, they just saw drawings and notes. Sanchez works as a Coordinator for BAYAN MUNA in La Union and as a convener of HUSTISYA-Northern Luzon.

ementary pupils and high school students returned to their schools.

Baguio's universities and colleges today are well-known for their law and accounting graduates who top the bar and CPA examinations.

The city's stature as an academe's haven was boosted when President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro supported vocational

education for poor students.

President Arroyo and VP De Castro battled for the so-called "blue collar" courses by handing scholarships and job opportunities to deserving students.

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) is offering vocational courses ideal for city students eyeing overseas jobs. (PNA)

We believe that the Golden Rule applies to animals, too. We don't accept the prevailing notion that "people come first" or that "people are more important than animals." Animals feel pain and suffer just as we do, and it is almost always humans making animals suffer and not the other way around. Yet in spite of how cruelly people behave towards animals – not to mention human cruelty to other humans- we are supposed to believe that humans are superior to other animals. If people want to fancy themselves as being of greater moral worth than the other creatures on this earth, we should begin behaving better than they do, and not worse. Let's start treating everyone as we would like to be treated ourselves.

- Public Service Message from Linis Gobyerno

www.linisgobyerno.org

BCDA to check on... from page 1

report on the investigation will also be submitted to the city council.

The city council then asked the Baguio Water District (BWD) through BWD Assistant General Manager for Technical Operations Engr. Salvador Royeca and corporate attorney Ma. Luisa Tenedero to furnish said report to the BCDA and the JHMC.

The body earlier invited the BCDA and BWD representatives to shed light on the alleged violation of the city's condition on the provision of the John Hay developer's own water supply.

Acting Vice Mayor Leandro Yangot Jr. proposed the invitation in reaction to renewed concern that the developer's tapping into the city's existing water system despite the existence of the condition might deplete its own water supply.

The city council, in approving the development plan for Camp John Hay in 1994, set up conditions to protect the city's interests, among which, the provision of its own water supply to be sourced from outside the city.

However the BCDA drilled deep wells and continued to tap from existing deep wells and water sources within the zone.

This, according to Yangot, appears to be taking toll on the city's water supply by depleting the existing reservoirs even if these water sources at John Hay supply only a limited number of households and outlying barangays in addition to establishments within the zone.

BWD manager Teresita De Guzman who was also invited to the inquiry, in a letter to the council, gave an update on the issue.

De Guzman said the BWD objected to the approval of three water permit applications filed by John Hay Water Systems Inc. before the National Water Resources Board in September 2003 on grounds that the applications are in violation of condition number 3 of Resolution No. 362 series of 1994 which provides that the BCDA shall ensure, in coordination with the BWD that additional water supply for use in the zone's overall operations, including the various concessionaires and their clientele, shall be sourced outside the City of Baguio. The BWD's protest however was dismissed by the NWRB "on a technicality."

De Guzman said the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel representing the BWD filed for motion for reconsideration but the same was also denied prompting the OGCC to file for a civil action against the JHWSI and the NWRB.

"The Regional Tiral Court acquired jurisdiction of the case which subsequently remanded the case back to NWRB for reception of evidence. We are therefore expecting a preliminary hearing of the case at the office of the NWRB inasmuch as the same has been scheduled on June 8, 2007," De Guzman informed. /Aileen P. Refuerzo

Council seeks Facts ... from page 12

April 12, 2007 entitled "GMA wants lone Baguio airport shut" which encapsulated the president's statement to local reporters regarding the conversion of the Loakan airport to an expansion of the export zone. The news item also stated that the decision however would still be upon the Baguio residents if they want to lose the said airport.

The same matter was brought to the attention of the council by a concerned citizen during one of its regular session last April.

"There is a need to verify if the verbal pronouncement of the President to close down the Loakan airport is meritorious or not," Councilor Rondez said during an interview.

Rondez also made mention that the Baguio Tourism Council (BTC), a tourism-oriented group, already manifested their opposition to the alleged closure and appealed for the local officials to immediately intervene since such move may jeopardize the city's tourism industry.

Local stakeholders and organizations likewise voiced their fierce opposition to the alleged closure during a BTC assembly.

While the president's plan may be beneficial to the city's economic industry, residents are opposing to the alleged closure given that the lone airport will be the only open channel during calamities. Residents reminisce that during the 1990 earthquake where all other major roads entering the city were closed due to landslides, the Loakan airport was used by foreign countries to aid and deliver goods to the city.

Meanwhile, the council will schedule an intensive consultation with the residents of Baguio together with Texas Instruments Inc., being the investor, regarding the sociological, financial, cultural and environmental effects of the alleged closure of the airport. – Dan Ricky Ong

Budget officer ... from page 3

Clemente said, "even as Alhambra claims efficiency, he has no targets to base his claims from. In fact, we always hear him say 'tourism program' when he tries to sway city officials for support.... Unfortunately, he has not been able to produce the so-called program."

Alhambra was summoned by the City Council in 2004 for allegedly entering into lease agreements not in accordance with the Local Government Code (RA7160); and for imposing payments which apparently "overlooked" rates prescribed under Ordinance 95.

Section 22 of RA 7160 provides, "Unless otherwise provided in this code, no contract may be entered into by the local chief executive... without prior authorization by the Sanggunian concerned."

A "value for money" audit conducted by the team of then city auditor Fernando Somera revealed there was under-collection of P153,000.00 in lease payments in 2004 because "rentals were not based on rates prescribed under Ordinance 95."

The report likewise revealed, "Although Ordinance 95 provides the CAO has primary responsibility in managing BCC, the provision does not mean that the OIC of the CAO is also authorized to sign agreements pertaining to lease of function rooms."

"I suggest," Clemente concluded, "that the city come up with policies that makes administration of the center merely ministerial, leaving no room for the exercise of discretion, if we want to better manage the BCC.**ISL

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Council seeks facts to Loakan airport closure

BAGUIO CITY – The city council last Monday supported the resolution penned by Councilor Perlita Chan-Rondez inviting personalities to shed light on the issue regarding the purportedly announced plans of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to convert the Baguio Loakan airport into an extension area of the Philippine Export Zone Authority, particularly for the Texas Instruments Philippines Inc.

The council through its committee on public utilities will be inviting the Department of Tourism-Cordillera regional director Purificacion Molintas, Baguio Tourism Council president Anthony De Leon, Air Transportation Office airport manager Marysulyn Sagorsor, Texas Instruments Inc. president Bing Viera, and Philippine Daily Inquirer - Northern Luzon news writer Vincent Cabreza to gather information and facts on the matter.

The issue stemmed from a Philippine Daily Inquirer news article published last **Cont. on page 11**



Ilocos leaders fear for their lives

Vigan City — Progressive organizations in Ilocos say its business as usual for state agents after a series of harassments leaders experienced in the course of the 2007 elections the fear that they may be next to be abducted or killed remains.

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN)-Ilocos spokesperson Albert Lagrimas said that during the period of elections, leader and members of various organizations received threats to their lives.

“These occurred at a time when the spate of abductions and killings in other regions was high and it was apparent that it was not far that this may also happen to us.” Lagrimas noted.

Lagrimas also said that the state of human rights on this second quarter of the year has deteriorated, as shown by the continued increase of political killings and abduction cases.

“Mrs. Arroyo is a hypocrite, he said, “ She was never sincere in solving the killings and enforced disappearances as the Commander-in-Chief. She did not do anything to stop the nationwide anti-insurgency policy Oplan Bantay Laya 2.” He added.

Continuous attacks

The local human rights organization, Iloocos Human Rights Advocates (IHRA-KARAPATAN) reported that since April-May this year, local coordinators and leaders of progressive party lists have been subjected to harassments and threats allegedly from state security forces.

On April 27, at around 10:00 pm, the house of Paola Espiritu, Coordinator of Kabataan Party in La Union was cordoned by an unidentified gray van and car.

On May 1, intelligence agents of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in San Fernando, La Union took photos of activists conducting a rally in commemoration of Labor Day. When Louie Santos, Coordinator of KABATAAN Party got hold of the police agent’s camera, the police prevented them from continuing the march-rally and threatened to arrest Santos if the camera was not returned. Police forces even said they have the profiles of activists at their office.

On May 13, Cindy Relucio, a coordinator of Gabriela Women’s Party in Ilocos received a business card with Bang! Bang! written on it. Prior to the incident, she received business cards with Ingat

Cont. on page 10

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